FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

21 DECEMBER 1983

PLO Affairs

The five Greek ships carrying Palestinian fighters loyal to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat departed Tripoli without incident, Beirut radio announced, despite continuous observation by Israeli naval units and overflights by Israeli planes, which drew antiaircraft fire from Palestinian dissident and Syrian positions. 'Arafat embarked on the second ship to sail, the destination of which was not declared, while the majority of his approximately 4,000 troops left on the other ships, one destined for Cyprus, two for Tunisia and Algeria, and the fourth for the YAR, the radio added. A Palestinian spokesman cited by Nicosia radio expected 'Arafat, after reaching the YAR, to visit King Husayn in Jordan, while AFP cited 'Arafat "subordinates" as suggesting that he will disembark at the Suez Canal and continue on to the YAR by other means.

The convoy of Greek ships and their French escort arrived in Nicosia and offloaded 508 passengers, most of whom will continue on to Iraq by air, Nicosia radio said, while one of the other ships put in to port for refueling and the other three ships continued their journey with French escorts.

Meanwhile, informed Palestinian sources in Paris cited by WAKH reported that Egyptian naval and air forces will protect the ships bound for the YAR and Sudan during their voyage through the Red Sea and the Suez Canal. According to the report, 900 of the Palestinians are bound for the YAR and 200 for Sudan, while 432 fighters from the Arab Liberation Front and their families will go to Iraq.

Commenting on the departure, a responsible source in the Palestinian dissidents' general command cited by Damascus radio asserted that most of those who accompanied 'Arafat were non-Palestinians and "elements of rightist reactionary forces." He "refuted" claims as to the total number of refugees, charging that there are only 1,700 persons with 'Arafat, and not the 4,000 'Arafat claimed. Voice of Lebanon radio contradicted earlier Beirut radio reports on the fate of 'Arafat's heavy weapons. It said that "over 95 percent" of them had been handed over to the Islamic Unification Movement, and not Lebanese Government forces as claimed.

Lebanon

Military Situation — Israeli warplanes attacked an Iranian-backed "terrorist" base in the Ba'labakk area on 21 December scoring accurate hits, the IDF spokesman announced in a statement broadcast by IDF Radio. The base was used to launch attacks on the IDF and the Multinational Force as well as for training purposes, he stated. Damascus radio briefly acknowledged the raid, citing a military spokesman, who noted that seven civilians were wounded by the attackers. Voice of Lebanon radio said four people were killed and four more were wounded in the raid, which was targeted on the Shaykh 'Abdallah camp. However, Islamic Amal and Iranian gunmen were not in the camp at the time of the attack because it has remained empty since the French air strike in the area, the radio asserted.

The Israeli raid came after two IDF soldiers were wounded in the Al-Biqa' valley when their truck hit a land mine near the Israeli-Syrian cease-fire line, according to Jerusalem radio. Although the radio said the earlier attack on an IDF convoy in Sidon caused no Israeli casualties, KUNA reported that at least 10 Israeli soldiers were killed.

Multinational Force — At a secret session in which U.S. policy toward Lebanon was reviewed, the Chamber of Deputies was "not convinced" by Foreign Minister Elie Salim's assertion that President Reagan's recent remarks about the possible withdrawal of the U.S. contingent were merely "a slip of the tongue," the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported. Meanwhile, the Italian defense minister confirmed that the Italian contingent will gradually be reduced, Rome radio noted. The foreign minister, who was appearing before Italy's Senate along with the defense minister, said Syria "cannot be considered extraneous" to a settlement in Lebanon, according to ANSA.

Iraq

During talks with visiting presidential envoy Donald Rumsfeld, President Saddam Husayn expressed Iraq's "positive response" to the U.S. desire to continue bilateral contacts in order to reach a better understanding of each other's stands on regional and international affairs, INA reported.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, currently in Washington for talks, welcomed Rumsfeld's visit to Iraq as a "new development in U.S.-Israeli relations geared to ending the Iraq-Iran war," according to MENA. An Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman cited by Tehran radio castigated the "new stage in the strengthening of relations between Baghdad and Washington" whose "destructive results" will soon become apparent.

Iran

Montazeri — Grand Ayatollah Montazeri is "the most powerful arm of the revolution" after Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani stated in a speech to security guards reported by Tehran radio. He added that "in this revolution and in this realm no one has been closer" to Khomeyni.

Protest to Kuwait — The Iranian Embassy in Kuwait issued a protest to the Foreign Affairs Ministry, IRNA reported, over the Kuwaiti police's "assault and battery" on the embassy political attache. IRNA explained that the police had broken into the attache's house, searched it while holding him at gunpoint, and assaulted and beat him.

Sudan

Government forces killed 480 rebels in an armed clash near the Ethiopian border and broke a rebel siege on a town in the area, Vice President 'Umar Muhammad at-Tayyib announced in a speech reported by AFP. Meanwhile, the Ethiopian news agency claimed that Egyptian fighter aircraft have arrived in Khartoum to help the Sudanese Government's campaign against rebels in the south, AFP noted.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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BAKHTAR Cites Gandhi on U.S. Plans for Pakistan

LD201417 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0429 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] Kabul, Dec 19, BAKHTAR — A political observer of BIA writes: Mrs. Indira Gandhi, prime minister of India, in an interview with reporters in Madras has expressed her grave concern over the plans for deployment of U.S. Pershing-2 missiles equipped with nuclear warheads in the territory of Pakistan. She added that there is no explanation for Pakistan's claim that Washington's plan for the deployment of Pershing-2 missiles in Pakistan is allegedly due to some imaginary threat emanating from events in Afghanistan. Indian prime minister clearly noted that it is Pakistan which has been interfering in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

In case such missiles are deployed in Pakistan under whatever pretexts it will corroborate the undeniable fact of the militarisation of Pakistan by the United States in a bid to achieve its interventionist and hegemonistic goals in Asia. It can be nothing else except the continuation of the deployment of the American Pershing and cruise missiles in Europe.

It is difficult to imagine that the militarisation of Pakistan by the U.S. is separable from the general policy of Washington which is directed at fanning the arms race and aggravation of international situations.

The U.S. imperialism has chosen Pakistan as a tool for the implementation of its expansionist policy in Asia and for the same reason approved the sale of Mohawk espionage plane equipped with the most advanced tools and equipments to Pakistan some time ago.

These planes can also be used as strategic bomber aircraft. In addition Harpoon missiles which are launched from the sea will also be given to the Pakistan military regime.

In recent years arming of Pakistan by Washington takes place at an amazing pace. Only during the current year one third of the Pakistan's budget has been allocated for the military expenditures showing a ten percent rise as compared with the last year. Thus, the military regime is exerting the heaviest pressures over the economy of a country whose citizens annual per capita income is only 350 U.S. dollars and about 70 thousand of whose inhabitants annually die of lung diseases arising from the shortage of foodstuff.

Official Meets With Soviet Delegation 20 Dec

LD201928 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] Serwar Mangal, vice chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers and chairman of the DRA State Planning Committee, yesterday morning at his office met the USSR Central Statistical Administration's [CSA] delegation, headed by M.A. Korolev, first deputy head of the department. During this meeting, views were exchanged on relevant topics.

The protocol of reciprocal cooperation between the DRA Central Statistics Department and the USSR CSA was signed today at the office of the DRA Central Statistical Department's general director. The protocol envisages cooperation in exchange of delegations and experts, training of statistical cadres, and exchange of methodic material for the years 1362-1366 [March 1983-March 1988]. The protocol was signed by the general director of the DRA Central Statistical Department and the first deputy head of the USSR CSA.

SPA Reports on Recent Mujahidin Activities

LD210022 Riyadh SPA in English 1928 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 20 SPA — The Afghan mojahedin have shot down six Soviet helicopters in mid-December near Kabul and in eastern Afghanistan, Western diplomatic sources said here today.

The sources said they downed two helicopters in Khowst area in Paktia province, close the Pakistani borders and the other four became victims of the resistance rocket fire at an unspecified area in Lowgar valley, south of Kabul on December 13. Nearly nine Soviet armoured vehicles were also destroyed in the Lowgar valley in a related action.

On the other, 12 Soviets were killed and three Russian armoured vehicles were destroyed on December 16 during a clash with the Mojahedin at Qarah Bagh in southern Shomali region, just north of Kabul.

During a clash in December, three communist party members and 45 Afghan Army soldiers were captured by the Mojahedin and later released only after surrendering their weapons, the sources said.

They added that a high-ranking Soviet officer and two Russian soldiers were being held hostage by the Mujahidin in Golbahar at the mouth of Panjsher valley, 60 miles north east of Kabul.

Nearly 400 mules, laden with weapons of all types arrived in the valley on December 7 while food supplies were (?trucked) in on December 4, the sources said.

On the other hand, the Mojahedin rocketed headquarters of "KHAD", (Afghan secret service modelled on KGB), in Qandahar, killing two officers and abducting another two, they added.

The sources said the security situation in Afghanistan's second biggest city, Qandahar, was out of hand from the communist regime's standpoint, adding that the city's bazaars open only for a short while in the morning and they close as Mojahedin enter the city during the daylight hours. They also reported heavy fighting now in progress in eastern Afghanistan in Jalalabad area, close to the Pakistani borders.

The sources said at least one regime's post on Torkham-Jalalabad road, linking Afghanistan with Pakistan, was now in the hands of the Mojahedin.

Meanwhile, the daily *PAKISTAN TIMES* quoted Afghan sources as saying in Peshawar today that the Mojahedin had

captured a customs check post on Monday at the borders of Torkham, a few hundred yards away from the Pakistani border near Peshawar.

In London, Salem Azzam, secretary general of the Islamic Council of Europe has received a letter from Mulavi Mohammad Yunus Khalis, a leading member of the Mujahid resistance in Afghanistan, which totally rejected press reports that divisions within the movement were destroying it.

"There are differences of opinions within the movement, but it is basically united in its resolve to confront the Soviet aggressors" Mulavi Khalis wrote in his letter.

"The Islamic unity will not allow any hurdle to block the resistance against the Soviet invasion forces. Moreover, the Russian forces are under constant siege of the Mujahedin," he added in the letter distributed by the AFGHAN PRESS AGENCY.

Venkataraman Assures Lok Sabha on Security

BK210037 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] The defense minister, Mr Venkataraman, assured the Lok Sabha today that the government has plugged all loopholes to prevent leakage of classified military documents. He was intervening in the special debate on the espionage activities of certain retired officers of the defense services.

Mr Venkataraman admitted that the security arrangements had not been perfect and it had led to a possible misuse. We have now learned from our mistakes. Security measures have been tightened and a strict monitoring is now being done at every stage. The defense minister agreed with members that we cannot afford to be complacent in matters of national security. He said that while the Larkins episode had caused great anguish, it could be noted with satisfaction that our defense personnel are patriotic. The serving Air Force officer, who brought the espionage activities to the notice of the authorities, will be suitably rewarded. The confession of the Larkins brothers gave a lot of valuable information about these activities. He assured the house that there is a perfect coordination among intelligence wings of the civilian and defense forces.

Replying to the discussion, the home minister, Mr P.C. Sethi, said that there has been good progress in investigation into the Larkins' case. Statements of 40 witnesses have been recorded so far. Sharing the members' concern over the espionage activity, Mr Sethi assured them that all possible steps have been taken to safeguard national security. The classified information has been segregated and access to it further restricted. Identity cards of ex-servicemen have been declared invalid. A new series of identity cards for defense personnel is being introduced soon.

Initiating the debate, Professor Madhu Dandavati, Janata, said the defense minister has done the correct thing in barring entry of retired officers to the defense library. He said the majority of people in our Armed Forces are patriotic and instances of spying are only an aberration.

Members belonging to both sides of the house urged the government to be more vigilant. Members from Congress benches felt that the government should not hesitate in avoiding [as heard] capital punishment to those found guilty of spying. They also urged the government to find useful employment for retired officers. An opposition member pointed out infiltration of spying activities in new areas, like trade unions and social organizations. There were demands for strengthening various intelligence organizations and creation of an apex body for coordination. Members also demanded that the list be prepared of foreign diplomats who were expelled from other countries on charges of spying. Yet another demand was to create a cell for retired officers of the Armed Forces to keep an eye on their activities.

A nominated member disclosed that the CIA activities have been revitalized in the country.

Some members demanded total ban on employment of ex-servicemen in firms dealing with arms or defense equipment.

Reference to Pakistan

BK210359 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] The defense minister, Mr Venkataraman, has assured the Lok Sabha that India will at no point lag behind Pakistan in defense preparation. Expressing his concern that Pakistan has been getting weapons far in excess of its requirements, Mr Venkataraman said Pakistan is being used as an advanced post by the West for strategic considerations. Referring to acquisition of latest submarines and Harpoon missiles by Pakistan, the defense minister said even our offshore oil installations are now under threat.

About reports of revitalization of the Central Intelligence Agency of the United States, he said the government is aware of these developments which also cause some worry. Mr Venkataraman made these observations while intervening in the debate on the espionage activities of certain retired defense officers.

PTI Cited on U.S. Looking for Base in South Asia

BK201359 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] A PTI report says the United States is looking for a basein South Asia as an alternative for its Subic Bay naval base in the Philippines. Pentagon uses this base as well as the Air Force base in the Philippines to control the southwest Pacific and the Indian Ocean region.

The agency, quoting defense analyst in New Delhi, says that the establishment of a U.S. base in South Asia would lead to increased tension in the region.

Gandhi Comments on Pakistan, Punjab

BK210401 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] The prime minister said that India may be big, but it never committed any aggression nor threatened anyone. Mrs Gandhi said this in an interview to a Bombay weekly. She said lack of progress in continuing the process of normalization of relations with Pakistan may be partly due to the internal problem in that country and pressures from outside.

In reply to a question, she said the center is always willing to hold talks on the Punjab tangle. She pointed out that the government has agreed to most of the Akali demands except the territorial issue. She said this concerns not only Punjab, but other states as well. She maintained that the opposition parties have been encouraging the Akali Dal.

AFP: 3 Sikh Youths Kill Nirankari Follower

BK201337 Hong Kong AFP in English 1306 GMT 20 Dec 83

[By A.K. Joseph]

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 20 (AFP) — Three unidentified Sikh youths shot dead a follower of Nirankhari, a breakaway Sikh sect, in Ludhiana District of the northwestern border state of Punjab, early today, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported.

PTI quoting reports reaching Chandigarh, the state capital, said the youths escaped on a scooter after killing Balbir Singh, a medical practioner.

The Nirankaris are at loggerheads with the Sikh protest movement which is demanding political autonomy for Punjab. At least 37 members of the sect have been killed in violence between the two groups during the past 18 months, official reports have said.

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA agency today reported from Amritsar that the Babar Khalsa group claimed responsibility for the killing of 35 Nirankaris since 1981. UNI quoting the group's chief, Jathedar Sukhdev Singh, said the killings would "continue" in order to "free Sikhism from the onslaught of the Nirankaris."

Meanwhile, the disappearance of a Sikh youth has sparked a heated controversy in Amritsar, with Sikh youth organisations based in the Golden Temple, the holiest Sikh shrine, charging each other with killing him and disposing of his body. The youth's mother, Didar Kaur, has said she fears her son, Santokh Singh, who has been missing from the complex since last Friday, may have been killed.

PTI reports said Didar Kaur and other relatives angrily demonstrated in the complex yesterday, adding to tension in the area.

It was not known whether the missing youth is a member of the extremist Sikh group led by Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale group or Babar Khalsa, another group opposed to Sant Bhindranwale, but which apparently supports the Akali leader Sant Harchand Singh Longowal.

In clashes last Thursday Babar Khalsa militants occupied two rooms in the temple complex and apparently forced Sant Bhindranwale and his followers to vacate their rooms in the Golden Temple complex.

G.S. Tohra, president of the Sikh temple committee, started efforts to heal the rift in the Akali camps by holding prolonged meetings with two sants in the Golden Temple complex, PTI said. Mr. Tohra, who rushed to the temple following the reported differences between the two leaders, appealed to the Akali factions and all Sikh organisations based in the complex to "desist from the war of statements." Such statements were deterimental to the cause of the Sikh goal and would harm the 16-month-old Akali Dal movement to realise demands for greater autnomy for their Punjab state, PTI quoted him as saying.

Another PTI dispatch from Amritsar said the Sikh temple authorities were not contemplating any action on the lists supplied by the police and government of criminals allegedly staying in the Golden Temple complex. The government has said wanted men are hinding in the temple but by tradition Indian police do not enter places of worship.

Report Requested

BK210922 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] The center has asked the Punjab government to send a report on the claim of the Babar Khalsa owning responsibility for the killing of 35 Nirankaris and register cases against them. The home minister, Mr P.C. Sethi, said this in the Lok Sabha in reply to questions on the claim of the extremist group as appeared in the newspapers.

Intervening, the prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, said that action has to be taken within the Constitution.

In reply to questions, Mr Sethi said though there is some foreign encouragement to extremists, there is no evidence to show that there is any organized arm supplies to them.

Reiterating that the extremists are supported by foreign powers, Mrs Gandhi said it is not possible to prove such things in a court of law. She cautioned the members that exaggerated statements often make it more difficult to find a solution to the problem.

Gandhi Says Communist Parties Joining Forces

BK210954 Hong Kong AFP in English 0522 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 21 (AFP) — The two communist parties of India, the independent CPI-M and pro-Soviet CPI, have joined forces to oppose the government, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi said.

In an exclusive interview with the pro-communist Bombay weekly, *BLITZ*, Mrs. Gandhi said that while the CPI had earlier refused to support the CPI-M, the party's "attitude has now changed and in parliament and outside they have got together in opposing us." She said that while the CPI sometimes paid lip service to her foreign policy, in fact it had been opposing her all along.

"You see the CPI wants to show that it is independent of the Soviet Union," said the prime minister. "We follow a particular policy of peace, not because it is the policy of the Soviet Union, but because we stand for peace and for the lessening of tensions," she added. Mrs. Gandhi said she had been the one "talking the loudest and in the most firm and determined manner" on international issues such as the nuclear missile crisis in Europe, "and this is why the pressure has increased tremendously on me and on India." She went on to say that failure to make progress in efforts to normalize relations between India and Pakistan was due to "pressure from outside," but did not elaborate.

Zia Discusses Elections, Islamization Process

BK211109 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] The president, Mohammad Ziaul Haq, has reiterated that the political program announced by him on the 12th of August will be surely and sincerely implemented, but he would not allow anyone to reverse the process of Islamization or to do any harm to the country's ideology.

Addressing a big public meeting at Qila Qasimbagh in Multan this afternoon, he said the first stage of the program has been over with the completion of election of the local bodies and now the other elections as provided for in the remaining stages would also be completed within the stipulated period of March 1985. However, he made it clear that the program announced by him was not a divine scripture. There is flexibility in it.

He said he was engaged in the process of consultations for the last 3 months with the leaders of different political parties and others as to the mode of election and the form of government. As soon as this process is completed, he will announce the outcome about these exchanges of views. The president said the question before them was whether the election should be held on a simple majority basis or on the basis of proportional representation. He made it clear that whatever the decision may be, there would be only an Islamic Shoora-i-Nizam [system of Islamic advisory council] and there would be no scope for any Western type of democracy. He said according to Islamic concept, the elected assembly should be called Majlis-i-Shoora. He said the transfer of power would be on the basis of Islamic principles, and the power would be handed over only to those who could take forward the process of Nizam-i-Islam [Islamic system]; run the system of zakat and ushr [Islamic taxes] effectively; strengthen the economy of the country; and not only believe in the ideology of Pakistan, but are in a position to promote and protect it and serve the nation.

The president said he was determined to carry forward the process of Nizam-i-Islam in the country and would continue to serve the nation sincerely and honestly as long as he enjoyed the confidence of the people, which was overwhelmingly demonstrated today at this grand public meeting. He said he could not afford to hand over power to those who were opposed to Islam and the solidarity of the country and were playing to the tunes of their foreign masters. He said Pakistan was created in the name of Islam through great sacrifices offered by the Muslims and would continue to exist in the name of Islam alone. He pointed out that in Islam sovereignty belongs to Almighty Allah and not to any individual.

Military Courts To Hear Terrorism Cases

BK210303 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] Interior Minister Mahmud A. Haroon has said that special military courts will hear all the cases of sabotage and terrorism. In an interview with the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN in Karachi yesterday, he said that the government is fully aware of the fact that the terrorists are trained in Afghanistan, and it is completely prepared to deal with them. Mahmud Haroon said that the people of Pakistan have hatred for all kinds of terrorism and the government, with their wholehearted cooperation, is tackling the terrorist activities.

Police Discover Kabul-based Terrorist Group

BK171734 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 17 Dec 83

[Text] Dir police have unearthed a new Kabul-based terrorist organization engaged in subversive activities in Pakistan, arrested one of its active members, and recovered a sizeable quantity of explosive devices. Police sources said in Peshawar today that the new terrorist organization called (Liyaqat), is being guided and supervised by the Afghan intelligence agency, Khad. Twenty-five plastic explosive devices have been recovered from the saboteurs.

Politician on Creation of 'Like-minded Union'

GF191115 Lahore JANG in Urdu 3 Dec 83 PP 1, 2

[Text] Multan, (PPA) — The leader of the defunct Pakistan Muslim League, Mr Pagara, has said that a broad based union of like-minded political parties will soon appear on the political scene. The union will include only like-minded parties, he said.

Mr Pagara said that his party has already started preparing for the future elections and that his party will publish its program during the electioneering period. Mr Pagara proposed that in case elections are delayed for some reason a provisional government of like-minded parties should be set up under the martial law administration. However, he advised that elections should not be delayed.

Briefs

Accord With Sudan — Pakistan and Sudan signed an agreement in Islamabad on 15 December for cooperation in science and technology. Under the agreement, the two countries will promote cooperation in these fields, including renewable sources of energy and research and development in medical and pharmaceutical sciences and electronics and laboratory instruments. [Summary] [Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 15 Dec 83 BK]

Islamic Bank Loan — The Jidda-based Islamic Development Bank has signed an agreement to give Pakistan $20 million loan to help finance crude oil imports from Saudi Arabia. This has been announced by the bank in Riyadh today. [Text] [Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 14 Dec 83 BK]

New Aircraft — The handing over ceremony of the first batch of five light aircraft, (Mashak), to the Armed Forces manufactured by the Pakistan aeronautical complex at Kamra was held on 15 December. The aircraft had been built in a record time of 2 years. [Summary] [Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 15 Dec 83 BK]

Growth Rate Rise — A report of the State Bank released in Karachi on 17 December says that during 1982-83 the gross domestic product growth rate improved further over last year's achievements. The balance of payment position recorded

notable improvement, while the current account deficit is less than one third compared to the previous year. The gross national product increased by 6.5 percent as against 5.4 percent last year. The real per capita income also recorded a rise of 3.5 percent as against 2.4 percent. The growth rates of commodity producing and services sectors were 6 percent and 5.6 percent, higher than theprevious year. The agricultural sector recorded a 4.8 percent growth rate as compared with 3.3 percent last year. Exports rose by 13.3 percent, while imports fell by 4.1 percent. The gold and foreign exchange reserves nearly doubled. National savings during 1982-83 rose 50.8 percent, and ratio of national savings to gross investment increased from 69.9 to 91 percent. [Summary] [Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 17 Dec 83 BK]

Ministry Spokesman Views Rumsfeld's Iraq Visit

LD201354 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] In connection with Rumsfeld's trip to Baghdad, his meeting with Mikhayl Yuhana [Tariq] 'Aziz, and his announcement on America's readiness to establish diplomatic relations with Baghdad, a spokesman of our country's Foreign Affairs Ministry said:

This trip, which took place immediately after the recent military and economic pacts between America and the Zionist regime, and which follows last September's agreements between the Zionist regime of Iraq and America's foreign ministers, is indicative of a new stage in the strengthening of relations between Baghdad and Washington.

Commenting on a statement made by a U.S. State Department spokesman, who described this trip as part of Rumsfeld's mission to help the Reagan peace initiative, he said: The speedy moves by the regime ruling over Baghdad to strengthen its ties with the world oppression and Zionism during the past few months, its de facto recognition of Israel, its giving assurances for the security of this regime at the Fes summit conference, its increasing relations with Egypt, its efforts to bring back America's ally in the Camp David conspiracy to the Arab fold, and its killing people in nonmilitary areas in the Islamic Republic as a retaliation to the bomb explosion at the American and French bases in Kuwait have culminated with this visit and America's announcement on its readiness to establish political relations with Baghdad. No doubt the destructive results of this allegiance against the Muslim and oppressed people of the region, especially Lebanon and Palestine, will soon become visible.

The Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesman also assessed the meeting as a continuation of the efforts made by world oppression to protect Saddam's regime and to confront the Islamic Republic.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Scores U.S. 'Conspiracies'

LD202021 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] The commander of the Ground Forces of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran together with the acting commander, deputy commanders, and the commanders of these forces' combat, training, cultural and logistic units, met this morning with Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council and speaker of the Majlis.

In this meeting, Ground Forces Commander Colonel Sayyad-Shirazi submitted a report on the military progress on the battlefronts, the extent of the readiness of the various units of the Ground Forces, and the outcome of the seminar of these forces' commanders.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani in a speech referred to the spectacular developments in the army after the victory of the Islamic Revolution and in the course of its popular struggles against U.S. conspiracies. He recalled the fact that with the blessed developments it has achieved, today our army is on a valuable course.

He said: One of these valuable developments is the issue of command, which is the imam of the nation's command. Military men must rely on the legitimacy and rule of the lord of the era's deputy and source of emulation and great leader of the country spiritually, politically, and legally.

Referring to the increasing aid given by America to the Ba'thist-Zionist Iraqi regime and also the reopening of the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: America has not directly sent troops to Iraq, but it supports Iraq continuously, in the same way as the Soviets supply most of its weaponry. America thought that if it did not give arms, advisers, or spare parts to Iran, the army would become shaky and would disintegrate; but today our zealous and faithful military men and brave officers, who have been trained in the United States and whom the Americans thought they had injected with the corrupt Western culture, command our battlefronts and create honor for the Islamic nation with pride in serving Islam and the Islamic Revolution.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The region's reaction and the United States have realized the destiny making role of your serious move and are rushing about to stop it and they are trying to do anything to delay your victory and to save Saddam with the creation of a crisis.

He emphasized: The only way the superpowers could save Saddam is the creation of a crisis in Islamic Iran. They intended to create the crisis in the Persian Gulf, but thanks to our peoples readiness to guard the Persian Gulf and fearing that our people's resistance might shake the world's economic system, they failed to do so and retreated. Thanks to the people's vigilance, they failed in Lebanon and Palestine and today they are preparing a new conspiracy. But before the enemy can prepare for a new conspiracy, you, military commanders, must deal it a heavy blow, because the scent of peace and a peaceful life can only be sensed through your victories. A peace in which we stand on one side of the border and Saddam stands on the other to exchange artillery fire and show our teeth and claws to each other has no meaning.

He added: The reactionary Arab world must understand that it cannot be the region's gendarme. The region's shaykhdoms must understand that security can be maintained by being gentle, relaxed, forsaking mischief, severing relations with world arrogance, building ties with the people, and using the people's oil resources properly.

The imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council concluded: Until the end, our war is defensive and we will continue to fight the aggressor to the end in order to defend our lost rights.

Montazeri: Prepare for When U.S. Might Land in Iran

LD201125 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that Brigadier General Zahirnezhad, chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the

Islamic Republic of Iran, accompanied by deputy commanders and heads of various bureaus of that headquarters, met with Ayatollah Montazeri in Qom yesterday.

At this meeting, Ayatollah Montazeri said: Our Armed Forces, unlike before when they were ruled over by a mercenary minority, are in the service of Islam and the people, thank God. Our nation considers the Armed Forces a part of itself and will cooperate with them in all issues. This is a great blessing resulting from the Islamic Revolution.

The enemies of Islam, headed by America, are worried about this fact and are using all their might to weaken the revolution and to deal blows to the Armed Forces of Islam. Of course, we did not expect anything else from America and its allies in the region. If, God willing, the mercenary Saddam is dealt with soon, no doubt America and others will not leave our nation in peace; they will start working from another direction. America has many mercenaries and puppets in the region, but the vigilant nation and our courageous Armed Forces, supported by the power of God, are ready for that day.

Ayatollah Montazeri, in this connection, emphasized: We should plan ahead and prepare ourselves for the day when America might stupidly land its Marines and paratroopers in our Islamic country in order to confront and fight against Islam. On that day, it will be the duty of all strata and groups to defend Islam and our dear country. On that day, you should leave for the fronts instead of staying in Tehran. I will come and prepare food and weapons for you on the front line, so that you can fight and defend Islam and God. Of course, you can rest assured that you will triumph, since your path is the path of Imam Hoseyn and your work is for God and since the great self-sacrificing nation of Iran supports you.

According to the same report, Mohammadi Reyshahri, presiding judge of the Armed Forces Islamic Revolution court and the Friday imams of Khodabandeh, Meymeh, and Hashtpar near Tavalesh also met the Great Ayatollah Montazeri in Qom yesterday.

Kuwaiti Raid on Diplomat's House Protested

LD202201 Tehran IRNA in English 1926 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] Tehran, Dec 19, IRNA — The Islamic Republic Embassy in Kuwait protested to the Kuwaiti Foreign Affairs Ministry over forced entry by the police into house of the Iranian Embassy's political attache Morteza Rahimi Zarchi, assault and battery on him, terrorising and search of his house for two hours.

The Kuwaiti police broke into the house of Iranian diplomat midnight Monday, and holding him at gunpoint searched his residence for two hours. He was also assaulted and beaten.

The letter, condemned the irresponsible and unreasonable action of the Kuwaiti police and said that such actions were clear violations of the international laws and the Vienna Convention.

Musavi Praises Revolution, Warns Kuwait

LD201353 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Excerpts] A group of Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and Mobilization members of the 7th and 2d Regions met with Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi.

Commenting on the superpowers' conspiracies to create discord among Muslims, the prime minister said: The Superpowers are trying to fight the brotherhood of Islam and to shatter it. However, they should realize that there is no discord among the Islamic nation.Only subservient governments try to divide their nations in an attempt to please their bosses.

Remarking on the objectives of the world oppression to present the Islamic Revolution of Iran as an unsuccessful experiment and stating that the week of unity will, in fact, foil this doomed plot of the enemy, Musavi said: The greatest lever at the disposal of our revolution is the love of world Muslims for this revolution. The superpowers are trying to take this lever out of our hands but they should realize that they do not have the power to do so and the voice of the revolution and the message conveyed by the blood of the martyrs of the Islamic Revolution go farther than the borders. The results of the Islamic Revolution are now felt all over the world.

The prime minister then considered the Islamic Revolution as the result of a great mass movement and the outcome of the inner hopes of a billion Muslims of the world to regain their Islamic honor. He said: Hopes that were crushed everywhere have been fulfilled in Iran, and it is only natural that the message of the Islamic Revolution will be heard all over the world and that the superpowers will attribute to Iran any movement by the natives of that region.

Finally, Musavi warned the Government of Kuwait in connection with the arrest of a number of Iran's educational officials: I warn that such acts will not serve any purpose but to prove an even closer allegiance between Kuwait and Saddam's regime. The Kuwaiti Government should follow the direction of its nation. Attributing incidents carried out by Arab forces in your country to Iran will not solve your problems.

Majlis Speaker Addresses Security Guards Personnel

LD210217 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] A number of Majlis security guards personnel, together with a number of personnel of the security guards unit protecting the Martyr Motahhari Headquarters, met this afternoon with Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

In a speech, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: I am extremely happy to meet you, but I am ashamed that I do not see you gentlemen more often. This is because of the difficulties that exist these days. Therefore, do be kind, and see this as a shortcoming on my

part rather than a deliberate action. Of course, the situation of the revolution requires that a man pay greater attention to matters of principle. As a result of your presence here — praise be to God — the Majlis, despite terrorist attempts, has been protected. We attribute this to your efforts and hard work. What we expect of you in connection with your appointment to your posts in the Majlis is to pay greater attention to ethical issues. Should you at times see things that are contrary to your expectations, this should not cause you to become lax in carrying out your tasks. You are carrying out your tasks for God and the revolution. In this phase, until tranquillity is reached and the revolution stabilizes, everyone should above all ponder the problems of the revolution before thinking of their own problems at work.

Our enemies are employing all means to bar the path of the revolution. You see the enemies engaged in rumormongering, hoarding, poisoning the atmosphere of public opinion, creating anxieties; those who are people of the pen and oratory spread their poison; foreign enemies wage this great war they have imposed on us; and the terrorists, too, work toward destroying internal security. They are all striving to weaken the system of the Islamic Republic. We should pay particular attention to these people's political devilries.

The fact that during unity week the imam of the Islamic nation spoke with such pain to the people is indicative of the extensive provocations, that they are being heeded by the imam. To frustrate these provocations, he graciously gives us this kind of advice.

The centers of arrogance and the supporters of the evil capitalist currents in their diverse forms kept attacking the government and by various methods hoped to weaken the entire system. They began with the government. The imam understand the situation and graciously gave such advice, which everyone heard. Now despite all these candid and clear-cut remarks by the imam, the selfsame arrogant currents are not ceasing their attempts. So they come and misrepresent these very remarks by the imam. The imam has very clearly and graciously commanded that you should not conduct sabotage and create trouble, that you should cooperate with the government, and that you should all be united! These are well known things and do not need much elucidation and expounding as to what the imam meant. What the imam meant is that anyone who might attempt to weaken the government would be committing a bad deed. Of course, anyone who cares for the revolution should serve this system. We should all be friends and comrades with one another and we should not have any differences; during this unity week, it was because of these very issues that the imam graciously said these things.

With regard to these very clear-cut and candid issues, our enemies abroad — who are watching the internal situation and recognize that center of power and that coordinator and determiner — wish to spread their poison via this very path. For instance, the initiative for unity week belongs to Grand Ayatollah Montazeri. In other words, it was he who, on the occasion of the birthday anniversary of the holy apostle, may God's benedictions and peace be upon him and his scion, proposed that we should set up a unity week, since the Shi'ites in their history maintain that the birthday anniversary of the holy and most noble apostle, may God's benedictions and peace be upon him and his scion, fell on the 17th of the month [Muslim month of Rabi' al-Awwal] while most Sunnis maintain that it fell on the 12th [22 December and 17 December respectively]. Montazeri said: Observe the festival from the 12th to the 17th. In other words, this should last a week. The aim of this was to satisfy both our Sunni and Shi'ite brethren. The founder of unity week was Grand Ayatollah Montazeri and thereby a blow was dealt to the enemies who were seeking discord.

Now we notice that arrogance, for instance, wishes to take its revenge on the person of Grand Ayatollah Montazeri as the founder of this movement.

Radio Israel, BBC radio, and other demons say: As Ayatollah Montazeri also criticized the government, the imam's views and remarks also apply to Grand Ayatollah Montazeri. In other words, these people want to deal a blow to something that is the cement of unity and thereby give the right to their internal agents and the uninformed and naive individuals to tell others that the imam had meant Grand Ayatollah Montazeri and in this way sow discord.

Our nation also knows that Grand Ayatollah Montazeri is the most powerful arm of the revolution after the imam of the Islamic Republic and that he is quite rightly the hope of our nation and of our revolutionary forces and combatants. The enemies also know this and to weaken such hope in the hearts of the people and to empty the hearts of the people this cue is given by Radio Israel so that the real demons may know how to carry out sabotage, and instead of unity and harmony, to seek such acts of discord that one would say that what the imam meant was this, and another would say that it was not.

We know that in this revolution and in this realm no one has been closer to the imam than Grand Ayatollah Montazeri. Should the imam sometime wish to tell him something, he would do so directly and would not speak in such generalities. Our people know this, but the arrogant are not leaving things alone and carry out their devilries to sow discord and cue their domestic agents.

You should be extremely heeding: Heed the line of Islam, the advice given to you by the imam and Grand Ayatollah Montazeri and other responsible officials. You should serve them with your hearts and lives and wherever you should hear any suggestions of discord you should slap such a person in the mouth. Stand up to such people and move unitedly so that, God willing, we will emerge triumphant from this war and restore the country's capabilities, which we want to spend on the war against the internal situation in the country.

In conclusion, Hashemi-Rafsanjani prayed for those present and called on all of them to pray to God Almighty so that the Creator of the Universe will keep for us this divine light, that is, the imam of the Islamic nation whom He has bestowed upon us.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,579

LD201947 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Communique No 1,579 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. During the past 24 hours, exchanges of artillery and heavy weapons fire have been going on between our forces and the Iraqi Ba'thist mercenaries on the northwestern fronts of the country — from Piranshahr to Marivan. Our combatants, by returning fire on the enemy's positions, supply routes, and patrol groups, stopped their movements; on the Piranshahr front, they foiled the enemy's patrol activities. On the Marivan front, main parts of the enemy's defense lines in various regions came under the fire of our powerful combatants. As a result, the fire of Iraqi forces was silenced and several of their guns sustained major damage. Over 30 of the Iraqi Ba'thist mercenary forces were also killed or wounded.

On the other fronts of the imposed war, the heroes of Islam continued to stabilize their positions.

On all the fronts of the Bakhtaran, Ilam, and southern border regions, they have maintained full domination over the defensive region concerned and bravely defended their defense lines. At suitable times with previous sighting, they have brought the artillery, tank, and infantry positions of the enemy under the heavy fire of their weapons and inflicted considerable losses and casualties on the Iraqi forces.

On the Dehloran front, the heroes of the Gendarmerie guarded their defense positions and returned the fire of the Iraqi forces, destroying one tank, one jeep, and several trenches of the Saddamist mercenaries and killing a number of their crew and occupants.

On the Abadan front, by opening fire on enemy positons and fortifications on the other side of the Arvand Rud they destroyed more than four slit trenches and foxholes of the Iraqi forces, together with their crews.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of The Islamic Republic of Iran

Correction to Joint Staff Communique

The following correction pertains to the item headlined, "Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,577," published in the 20 December South Asia *DAILY REPORT*, page I 2:

First paragraph, first line should read: [Communique No 1,578 of Joint Staff. . .](changing "1,577" to "1,578")

Next to last paragraph, second line should read: . . . residential units in Abadan were damaged. (changing "Esfahan" to "Abadan")

Tudeh Party Members Trial Continues

LD201338 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] The Armed Forces Islamic Revolution tribunal met this morning under Reyshahri to begin the trial of Mohammad Bahraminezhad, in charge of the secret military wing of the spying Tudeh Party, and the trial of party members under his charge. Mohammad Mahdi Partovi and Mohammad Amir Mo'azez were also present at the court.

The trial began with the reading of the indictment against Mohammad Bahraminezhad, dealing with his responsibility in a military network, recruiting army personnel for the party, collecting information, membership at cadre level, collecting financial donations, collecting weapons and ammunition, and his links with the party after the imam's message.

Defending himself, Bahraminezhad said the individuals I am accused of having introduced to the Tudeh Party contacted the party themselves. My only responsibility was to convey the Tudeh Party's stands to individuals. He said he was unaware of the immensity of the process, and said: I delivered 10 bullets and 1 hand grenade, as instructed by the party, to a higher official following one particular incident. [sentence as heard]

Afterward, Mohammad Mo'azez explained Bahraminezhad's modus operandi within the context of the latter's contacts with the party. He said: Today, I accept that America is worse than Britain and that the Soviet Union is worse than both. Then Partovi said: I must point out to the gentlemen that we have undertaken criminal actions. Consequently, I would like you to stop justifying them. This is not a disclosure of the Tudeh Party. Rather, it is a disclosure of a movement called communism.

He then confirmed the remarks made by Mo'azez, adding: Bahreminezhad was aware of our activities, but we did not tell him that we were going to hand over the weapons to the government. In his own defense Bahraminezhad said: I am not denying that we have been duped nor am I defending the Tudeh Party. These two claimed in the papers that they were delivering the weapons they collected from us to the government and to the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps. Later, explaining the situation, Mo'azez said: Partovi told Bhraminezhad: We need one particular type of missile. He was making every attempt to supply the missile in question. He knew quite well that the missile was to be supplied to the Soviet Union.

Addressing Bahraminezhad, Mo'azez said: What did you want to do with the missile? Was it not for the Soviet Union? You must not lie. It woud be much better if you would tell the court everything honestly and frankly.

Mo'azez then added that he was aware of the party's military network, that he knew the party had an extensive military network. The accused, referring to the Tudeh Party's secret military network, confessed that the network existed only to topple the Islamic Revolution.

Bahraminezhad's trial is to continue.

Ahvaz Radio Assails Western, Soviet Propaganda

GF141830 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1230 GMT 14 Dec 83

[Ahvaz Information Unit commentary]

[Summary from poor reception] One of the latest gimmicks of the Western news media has been the adverse reports on the recent international conference of physicians held in Tehran. During the whole time the delegates to this conference stayed in Tehran, the Western news media tried to play down the event, saying little about the conference. They were waiting for the conference to end so that they could continue with their adverse propaganda against the Islamic Republic.

As you are aware, during their stay in Iran, the conference delegates were shown around the Iranian prisons to see the true state of affairs, which Western propaganda has been distorting.

For example, BBC quoting *THE GUARDIAN*, had reported that *THE GUARDIAN* correspondent had visited Evin Prison and has seen some 1,500 inmates engaged in prayers. It is possible, *THE GUARDIAN* said, that these may have been government personnel posing as worshippers because all seemed normal there. A foreign physician who was one of the delegates to visit Evin later told *THE GUARDIAN* that he was allowed within the prison to see for himself if the Western reports about torture and oppression were true. He found no such evidence and said that *THE TIMES* [as published] had been mistaken in its reports that inmates were being tortured.

Israeli radio has also been broadcasting similar adverse reports. We ask the champions of human rights whether they would like to open the doors of their prisons to us and show us what was happening within? They just want to malign the Islamic Republic.

The Tudeh trials has now prompted the Kremlin officials to begin efforts to drive in the background the treason committed by the Tudehis. In this connection, Moscow radio is broadcasting material that aims to achieve this end. The radio is trying to prove that the confessions of the Tudeh members were obtained by torture. Even after the Tudeh members appeared on Iranian television and denied any torture, Moscow radio continued to object. It also tried to blame the alleged torture on the imperialists who were making Iran do it. Moscow radio also said that by trying the Tudeh members, it shows that the Islamic Republic has come under the influence of the U.S. imperialists.

When we listen to this propaganda by Moscow radio we understand that it is an effort to defend these Tudeh criminals. From the very first, when Tudeh members were arrested and confined to prison Moscow radio has been saying that they had been framed and that they were in fact innocent. The radio also wants us to believe that the Tudeh members were really defending national interests when they were engaged in their secret activities.

In another broadcast Moscow radio said that the Tudeh trial was a very special one and was being held in camera behind closed doors, and that foreign correspondents were barred from attending it. By saying that the court doors are closed Moscow radio wants to distract world attention from the treason these Tudeh members have committed against their own country. We ask: Aren't spies caught in other countries also tried behind closed doors? Does the United States try Soviet spies in open courts in the presence of foreign correspondents? Certainly not! Then what is all this propaganda about?

Moscow radio forgets that it is trying to defend the people who have themselves called their Soviet masters treacherous and unworthy. Soviet officials in the Kremlin believe that through sheer propaganda they can cover up their treacherous policies toward Iran. Instead of making such propaganda, why don't they adopt different policies?

GDR Official Arrives for Cooperation Talks

LD112214 Tehran IRNA in English 2013 GMT 11 Dec 83

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 11 IRNA — Deputy Foreign Minister of the German Democratic Republic (GDR) accompanied by a delegation arrived here tonight and was welcomed at Mehrabad Airport, By Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam, deputy foreign minister of Iran, and Mr. Guenther Fritsch, the GDR ambassador, along with staffers of the GDR Embassy in Tehran.

Talking to IRNA, the German official said his visit was aimed at getting acquainted with Iranian officials and also for holding talks on expansion of mutual ties between the two countries. He further said that this was his first visit to Iran and hoped to have the opportunity to discuss with Iranian officials some international issues. He furthermore expressed the hope that his delegation would be successful in taking effective steps in furthering cooperation between the two countries.

The delegation arrived here today after a short stop in Damascus.

Confers With Velayati

LD121937 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] The political under secretary of the GDR Foreign Ministry [as heard] met and conferred today with Foreign Minister Velayati. During their meeting, the GDR official said: The GDR wishes to expand its relations with Iran. He also expressed the hope that a suitable balance would be maintained in all aspects of relations between the two countries, namely, the political, economic, and cultural aspects.

He added: Although we live in different parts of the world, we have common problems. We each have special characteristics. Therefore, we can make use of each other's experiences. Considering the present critical situation in the world, this is necessary.

Mr Velayati replied: The Islamic Republic of Iran gives attention to its relations with the GDR. On that basis, after the victory of the Islamic Revolution, relations between the two countries improved considerably. We refrain from concentrating our foreign relations on a particular country or a particular number of

countries. One of the greatest achievements of our Islamic Revolution has been our political stability.

Talks With Sheykh ol-Eslam

GF160900 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Text](?Gerd Koenig), GDR deputy foreign minister for political affairs. yesterday held the last session of talks with Sheykh ol-Eslam, political affairs deputy at the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in Tehran.

The two sides views are identical on the Middle East, the Persian Gulf, Lebanon, and southern Africa issues. They also referred to the strategic importance of Latin America in international policy. They affirmed their countries' support for liberation movements in this region.

(?Gerd Koenig) explained that the Iraqi ruling regime is taking advantage of GDR economic officials' visit to Baghdad for publicity purposes. He also explained his country's stance toward the aggressive war against the Islamic Revolution imposed by Iraq. He expressed his hopes that relations between Iran and GDR will further develop.

(?Gerd Koenig) arrived in Tehran last Sunday, 11 December, to hold talks with officials in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Hungarian Experts Attend Water Resources Seminar

GF101553 Tehran IRNA in English 1531 GMT 10 Dec 83

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 10, IRNA — A seminar on water resources convened its first session here today attended by the Iranian Energy Minister Hasan Ghafuri-Fard and a large number of Iranian and Hungarian experts at the ministry.

At this seminar, Ghafuri-Fard said that such seminars besides raising the scientific and technical level of specialists also strengthen cooperation and friendship between countries.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, in order to meet the increasing water needs of the country, specially in the area of agriculture, which is considered the highest priority, has mobilised all available manpower for this purpose. Ghafuri-Fard further added that the Energy Ministry's plans (long and short term) call for the providing of 21 billion cubic metres of water for agricultural purposes. Concluding his talks, the minister stressed that the transferring and exchange of tehcnology between friendly countries such as Iran and Hungary would further the expansion of cooperation. This seminar is due to run for two days.

Refugee Council Discusses Afghan Problems

GF160854 Esfahan Domestic Service in Persian 1530 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] The Afghan Refugee Coordination Council held a meeting yesterday in the office of the governor general of Esfahan. In this meeting, the official in charge of the Afghan Refugee Coordination Council gave a detailed explanation of the current affairs relating to the Afghan refugee brothers and the government policy on this issue.

He said: We must distinguish between the Afghan refugee brothers and those who cause mischief. We should not look on all of them with the same eyes. We must try, on the bases of the guidance given by his excellency the imam, Ayatollah Montazeri, and the Council of Ministers, to strengthen the bond between the two Muslim countries—which grows day by day—and to apprehend and punish those who prevent setting up of such a bond. For the same reason, the disciplinary forces of the province have been given necessary instructions. The faithful and spiritual Afghan leaders have been asked to identify and introduce to us those elements who in any way tamper with these relations between our two Muslim nations.

Central Bank Governor on War Expenditures

DW141013 Mainz ZDF Television Network in German 1915 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Excerpts from interview with Central Bank Governor Dr Mohsen Nurbakhsh by Guenter Ederer in Tehran; recorded in English with superimposed German translation, date not given]

[Text] [Ederer] This war naturally eats up a huge part of your national income. Can you make an educated guess as to the percentage of your people's property that is being destroyed by the war?

[Nurbakhsh] Roughly, I can say that at least 30 percent of our budget, of our government expenditures, is needed for the war. This includes the reconstruction of destroyed installations, costs for people who lost their homes and must now be looked after by the government, as well as all other tasks. So I can say: It comes to roughly 30 percent of our budget expenditures.

[Ederer] And you can keep going financially this way for a long time?

[Nurbakhsh] Yes, as far as our economic situation is concerned and as far as our financial reserves are concerned, we are able to finance this war up to victory.

[Ederer] What is the difference between an Islamic and a capitalist banking system?

[Nurbakhsh] Actually, it is very hard to answer this question briefly. There are long discussions between the different schools. But to put it briefly: I can say that the main difference is to be found in the human being, in man as defined by an economic system. As you know, there is the rational man in the capitalist system, the man who solely goes by materialist objectives, motives, and incentives. The same is true for socialism. But as far as the Islamic economic system is concerned there are incentives beyond the materialistic one, for instance, sacrificing part of one's income just for the happiness of other people. It is these other incentives which form the principal difference between the Islamic economy and the other schools.

[Ederer] Getting back to the international money markets: The United States confiscated all your reserves. Are you careful now whom you trust with your money?

[Nurbakhsh] Definitely. We are very careful in the banking relations we maintain with other countries. And since that happened to us once, we have our money deposits only in those countries that seem to be safe.

[Ederer] Do you consider the Federal Republic safe?

[Nurbakhsh] Right now, yes, I think.